

MINUTES

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The Town of Manteo Board of Commissioners held their Regular session in the Manteo Town Hall meeting room March 4, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

- Mayor Bobby Owens
- Commissioner Darrell Collins
- Commissioner Eddie Mann
- Commissioner Betty Selby
- Commissioner Jason Borland

The following members were absent:

- Commissioner Christine Walker
- Commissioner Richie Burke

Also present at the meeting were:

- Town Manager James Ayers
- Asst. Town Mgr. /Finance Shannon Twiddy
- Town Clerk Becky Breiholz
- Planner Melissa Dickerson

Mayor Owens called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm followed by a moment of silent meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of Agenda as presented or amended

**MOTION:** Commissioner Collins seconded by Commissioner Mann to approve the agenda as presented was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Mann, Collins, Borland and Selby. Noes: None. Absent: Walker and Burke

**SUBJECT:** Adoption and approval of the items on the Consent Agenda as presented or amended. February 5, 2020 minutes; February 19, 2020 workshop and closed minutes; letter of support for USDOT INFRA grant application by NCDOT; amending Town Manager's employment agreement; GEACC 2020-2021 budget.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Mann seconded by Commissioner Selby to approve the consent agenda as presented was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Mann, Collins, Borland and Selby. Noes: None. Absent: Walker and Burke.

**PRESENTATION-**by Dorothy Hester PIO for Dare County on 2020 census. She is also the co-chair of the Dare County Complete Count Committee; the Town also has a representative on that committee which is Melissa Dickerson. A slide show was presented to the Board showing the impact of the census. Their goal is count everyone and get a response rate of above 82%. Impacts of the census mandated for re-apportionment of Congress, used for redistricting at national, state and local levels. Economic impact is over \$675 billion is distributed to NC and local governments using census numbers. Other ways the data is used is for future transportation needs; assist in implementing programs/services in education, healthcare, transportation, social services and emergency response. They are encouraging everyone to respond when they receive

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their invitation. This will be the first year that you will be able to respond to the census on-line. They appreciate the Commissioners support.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Laverne Brooks-Outside Manteo town limits here to express her concerns with the tree pits on Sir Walter Raleigh Street. The trees were nice but there are safety concerns, you are not likely to see the children playing. The trees are now a distraction to the area and not maintained. She would like the trees to be removed, a sidewalk put in and possibly a speed bump for the children.

Radasha Gregory wants to reiterate what Ms. Brooks stated and she would also like the tree pits removed. She has concerns about safety issues.

Matthew Bryant-cars go by at 40 to 50 miles per hour; the trees need to be removed.

Stella ? a concerned grandparent and the cars come fast, and you can't see the kids; need something to slow the cars down.

Aquilla Bryant-her main concern is we have a playground in that area; has safety concerns for the kids, speeding cars. There are grown men out their smoking, not sure if there are drugs out there and asks that they pay attention to cars flying through.

Some Board members started discussing this and Mayor Owens asked that it be an agenda item and discussed at a later meeting. Public Comments closed at 6:50 pm

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**SUBJECT:** Discussion and consideration of Recycling Contract Amendment  
The Town of Manteo entered into a Recycling Contract with Bay Disposal effective June 13, 2017 through June 30, 2022. The Contract includes the provision of recycling containers, curbside collection of recyclable materials, and transport of materials to an "appropriate recycling materials handling and disposition facility."

Bay Disposal contacted the Town Planner regarding changes in their handling of recyclable materials as well as the potential for a price increase, including a meeting on January 9, 2020. The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a letter on January 15, 2020 indicating that they had issued temporary three-month authorization to Bay Disposal to transport recyclables to a waste-to-energy incinerator facility because the materials recovery facility used for recycling in the region was no longer accepting materials.

Bay Disposal's representative met with the Town Planner and Town Manager on February 18, 2020. Two key issues were raised in this discussion. First, Bay Disposal acknowledged they are not in compliance with Section 1(c) of the Recycling Contract which states "In no case shall Recyclable Materials be disposed of in a landfill or incinerator facility." They have asked the Town to waive or suspend this contract condition.

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Second, Bay Disposal is requiring a 50% increase in the unit costs for the curbside roll cart service. Bay Disposal's representative indicated they would discontinue their service if this increase is not met. There is no term or condition in the contract that would allow for this unilateral price increase and, further, minutes of the Board of Commissioners meeting on May 17, 2017 indicated it was Bay Disposal that asked for a five-year contract term instead of the two-year term then on the table. When asked for assurance that no further price increases would be required next year, Bay Disposal's representative indicated no such assurance could be made.

With regard to the request to waive the prohibition of incineration of recyclables, it is recommended that a temporary suspension be granted but only for the length of time authorized by the State Department of Environmental Quality.

With regard to the requirement to increase the cost of curbside roll cart service, it is recommended that a temporary increase be granted but only until the end of the current fiscal year.

With regard to future recycling activities beyond the temporary measures noted above, there are multiple options to be considered:

- A. Continue curbside recycling service paid by the Town to Bay Disposal
  - a. Preliminary analysis indicates this would initially increase costs between \$15,000-\$20,000 annually, and Bay Disposal indicated more price increases could occur.
- B. Eliminate curbside recycling service
  - a. Preliminary analysis indicates this option would save more than \$10,000 annually in costs, but it would increase the volume of materials going to the landfill and it would go against the desire to offer recycling.
- C. Offer subscription-based recycling service
  - a. This approach was envisioned by the Board back in 2008, but Bay Disposal indicated they would need around 250 customers to sign up to make this service viable.
- D. Offer recycling stations operated by the Town
  - a. The Town could offer recycling stations that would accept cardboard and glass for transport by Public Works to the Dare County transfer station.

Staff's preliminary recommendation would be a combination of Options C & D. In addition, it would be appropriate to engage the community in assessment of the options followed by inclusion of any cost increase or decrease in the proposed FY2020-2021 budget.

Mayor Owens would like to discuss this and get the community input. The rate of recycling participation is about 25 to 30% and Commissioner Borland would like to get the word out, put this on the workshop agenda so citizens can comment. Mayor Owens agrees the public has the right to have an input. Consensus of the Board to place this item on the workshop agenda for public comment.

#### **MAYOR'S/COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Selby thanked the citizens coming out and voicing their concerns.

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Commissioner Collins would like the Manager to coordinate with the Police Chief to check out the speeding on Sir Walter Raleigh.

Commissioner Mann would like the Manager to contact NCDOT and see if we can get some traffic control devices in that area.

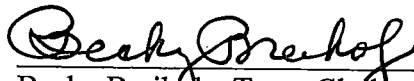
Commissioner Borland echoes the concerns and would like to get traffic control devices in certain areas to slow down the traffic.

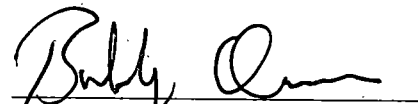
Mayor Owens asked the Manager to speak to the Chief of Police on speeding issues and contact NCDOT about what can be done. Sounds like some want to get rid of the bulb outs and have speed bumps, this will be placed on the April agenda for more discussion.

There being no further business to come before the Board or other persons to be heard a motion by Commissioner Mann seconded by Commissioner Borland the meeting was recessed at 7:00 pm until March 18, 2020 at 5:00 pm was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Mann, Collins, Borland and Selby. Noes: None. Absent: Walker and Burke.

This the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020

ATTEST:

  
Becky Breihelz, Town Clerk

  
Bobby Owens, Mayor





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March 4, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
U.S. Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) **Future I-87 Resiliency, Innovation, Safety, Economy Project** (the "Future I-87 RISE Project" or "the Project" hereafter) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's INFRA Program. The Future I-87 RISE Project is the result of a continuous thoughtful and coordinated strategy to support regional and national economic vitality through the deployment of innovative technology and creative infrastructure investments to improve freight mobility, rural access, and infrastructure resiliency specifically in an underserved portion of eastern North Carolina. The Project combines multiple complementary investments selected for their ability to deliver improved corridor performance and system resiliency while increasing the physical and digital connectivity of rural communities in eastern North Carolina. The Project is a large step forward in realizing North Carolina's vision to build out and harden the network of freight distribution/military corridors in eastern North Carolina.

The future I-87 corridor traverses rural eastern North Carolina, connecting Raleigh, NC at its southern terminus and the Hampton Roads-Norfolk region in Virginia at its northern terminus. When fully completed, this corridor will serve as an interstate connection between the Port of Virginia and I-95. This corridor is critical to connecting northeastern North Carolina industries and farms to their best export option through the Port of Virginia and represents concerted cooperation across state lines to realize national economic development opportunities. Improvements along the future I-87 corridor will also capitalize on the \$270M investments in the Carolina Connector Intermodal Rail Terminal (CCX), removing barriers along the transportation route between CCX, the I-95 corridor, and the Port of Virginia. It is projected that activity at CCX will reduce shipping costs by 40% and increase the efficiency of the movement of goods, producing national economic trade benefits. Project investments in this corridor will improve the road to interstate standards from Zebulon to Williamston, make upgrades to several interchanges, and widen the road to six lanes in the vicinity of Zebulon. The Project will make numerous spot improvements to mitigate road flooding in the Princeville area. Collectively, these improvements will offer rural residents a safer and faster travel option to access the Raleigh job market.

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Future I-87 and the U.S. 64 extension out to the coast are important evacuation routes. The Project will install fiber optic cable along the entire length of the future I-87 corridor, as well as the extension of U.S. 64 from Williamston to Whalebone. This investment will permit NCDOT to implement state-of-the-art wind and flood monitoring, manage the corridor in a coordinated manner with I-95 and U.S. 70 (future I-42) where fiber is already being installed, prepare for the future implementation of connected and autonomous vehicles, enhance broadband capability in this underserved rural area, and offer the potential for revenue opportunities to NCDOT through the lease of excess fiber capacity. The installation of fiber will also represent a sound investment due to the projected revenue generation the state will see from providing a fiber/broadband "backbone" for additional incremental private investment in network expansion to rural areas.

While the Project addresses multiple evaluation criteria for the INFRA program, improving the economic competitiveness of eastern North Carolina's rural communities along future I-87 lies at the heart of this project. This INFRA grant, when combined with the significant state investment, would position North Carolina to immediately move forward to improve safety, address key bottlenecks, and further build out the backbone of its eastern freight network while simultaneously improving the resiliency of key evacuation routes used by residents of North Carolina and neighboring states. The Project is a prudent investment that will increase the return on prior federal investments and proactively protect existing transportation assets, thereby preventing future losses.

The Town of Manteo is the County Seat for Dare County, and our long history as a center of commerce and government in this area informs us of the need for excellent transportation infrastructure to support both community and economic development. Therefore, we are backing this important initiative of the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support the ***Future I-87 Resiliency, Innovation, Safety, Economy Project*** and the NCDOT's application for federal INFRA grant funding to accelerate its construction.

Sincerely,



Bobby Owens, Mayor  
Town of Manteo

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## Department Head Report <sup>46</sup> Administration

March 4, 2020

### Amendment to Town Manager Employment Agreement

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the Town of Manteo and its Town Manager entered into the Town Manager Employment Agreement on January 16, 2019. In accordance with Section 10 of that Agreement, the Mayor and Board of Commissioners held a performance evaluation of the Town Manager on February 19, 2020.

Section 3 of the above-referenced Agreement indicates that "the Board may, in its sole discretion, review and adjust the salary" of the Town Manager. The Board of Commissioners communicated its intention to increase the base salary of the Town Manager by 5%, effective as of the date of the performance evaluation, which would be February 19, 2020. In order to amend the Town Manager Employment Agreement with this salary increase, the Board of Commissioners must vote to approve the amendment in open session.

*Kim  
This was  
approved  
by BOC 3/4/20  
[Signature]*

If you have any questions about this agenda item, please call the Town Manager at 473.2133 or the staff member listed below prior to Wednesday Evening.

Name: James Ayers

Telephone: 473-2133

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